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7-11 April 2014
Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters

Report of the Bureau of the Commission on Population and Development on its intersessional meetings

I. Introduction

1. At its thirtieth session, in 1997, the Commission on Population and Development authorized its Bureau to hold intersessional meetings in preparation for its sessions on a yearly basis (E/1997/25, para. 52). The Commission subsequently stressed the importance of making available written reports on those meetings at the earliest opportunity (see Commission decision 2005/2) and requested its Bureau to meet as frequently as necessary in preparation for the annual sessions of the Commission (see Commission resolution 2006/1). In accordance with Commission resolution 2006/1, the Bureau held three meetings between September 2013 and January 2014. The three meetings were held at Headquarters on the following dates: 12 September 2013, 22 November 2013 and 15 January 2014.

2. The first two meetings of the Bureau were attended by the Chair, Mr. Gonzalo Koncke Pizzorno (Uruguay), Mr. Jens Ole Bach Hansen (Denmark), Ms. Nino Shekriladze (Georgia), Mr. Mamadou Mbodj (Senegal) and Mr. Katsuhiko Takahashi (Japan). The same participants attended the third meeting, with the exception of Mr. Mbodj who was represented by Mr. Baba Guisse. Staff of the Population Division of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and representatives of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) were present at all meetings of the Bureau. Ms. Emer Herity, of the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management, also attended the meetings.

3. The present report summarizes the discussions of the Bureau at those meetings, including the conclusions reached and the recommendations made.

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II. Summary of the deliberations of the Bureau

A. Organization of work for the forty-seventh session of the Commission

4. The Bureau reviewed the organization of work for the forty-seventh session. It was decided that on Monday, 7 April, and Tuesday, 8 April, the time slots between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. would each be used for a presentation by a keynote speaker to be followed by an interactive debate. It was also decided that on Wednesday, 9 April, the time slot between 12 p.m. and 1 p.m. would be used for a panel discussion.

5. The Bureau also decided that, as in previous years, consideration of agenda item 4, General debate on national experience in population matters: assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, would resume after consideration of agenda item 5 on Wednesday afternoon, as well as after consideration of item 6 on Thursday morning, as necessary. It was further decided that, if necessary, consideration of agenda item 4 would also be resumed on Thursday afternoon and Friday morning. Finally, consideration of agenda item 3, Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, would continue on Monday afternoon at 3 p.m. in order to provide a greater space for Member States to make contributions under the item.

6. The Bureau also discussed how to ensure the effective participation in the session of the Commission of civil society actors, particularly non-governmental organizations, in line with the relevant General Assembly resolutions. It was decided that the Bureau would continue its work to identify ways to allocate time for the participation of civil society, including considering amending the organization of work to designate a portion of the session for non-governmental organization statements. A final decision would be made at the fourth meeting of the Bureau, to be held in February 2014.

B. Keynote speakers

7. In its decision 2005/2, the Commission welcomed the format of inviting keynote speakers to address the sessions of the Commission and requested the Bureau to make the necessary arrangements for their participation and to inform States members of the Commission accordingly. Pursuant to that decision, the Bureau decided that two expert keynote speakers would be invited to address the Commission, to be followed by an interactive debate on 7 April, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m., and on 8 April, from 12 p.m. to 1 p.m.

8. The Bureau selected the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General and his Special Envoy for HIV/AIDS in Asia, Ms. Nafis Sadik, to speak on 7 April on the theme "Dignity and human rights within the context of the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014", with the exact title of the presentation to be discussed and agreed later by the invited speaker in consultation with the Secretariat. For the invited speaker on 8 April, to address the Commission on the general theme "Population and sustainable development: the United Nations post-2015 development agenda", the Bureau considered as possible candidates a

speaker to be nominated by the group of Latin American and Caribbean States; and Professor Emeritus of the University of Florence, Mr. Massimo Livi Bacci.

9. The Bureau also decided to organize an expert panel of three speakers on the theme "The International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014: an unfinished agenda" and considered the following list of candidates: the Regional Director, Partners in Population and Development, Africa Regional Office, Mr. Jotham Musinguzi; Massimo Livi Bacci; the candidate to be proposed by the group of Latin American and Caribbean States; Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology, and Director of the International Islamic Center for Population Studies and Research, Al-Azhar University, Egypt, Mr. Gamal Serour; the Dean of the Faculty, Harvard School of Public Health, and T and G Angelopoulos Professor of Public Health and International Development, Harvard Kennedy School of Government, Mr. Julio Frenk; the Chief Executive Officer of the Centre for Health Sciences Training, Research and Development, Nigeria, Ms. Oluwafunmilola Dare; and a candidate proposed by Georgia, as a member of the group of Eastern European States. The Bureau agreed that final decisions on the selected candidates for the keynote speaker on 8 April and for the panel discussion on 9 April would be made by the Chair in consultation with the Secretariat as soon as possible following the meeting on 15 January 2014.

10. As is customary, the Bureau recommended that, in the event of negotiations being held during the first three days of the session of the Commission, the working group would be adjourned during the presentations made by keynote speakers and during the panel discussion.

C. Participation of relevant United Nations entities in the forty-seventh session of the Commission

11. The Bureau noted that the topic of the forty-seventh session was relevant to the work of many entities of the United Nations system. With that in mind, it was agreed that the Chair would inform all relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system of the dates and theme of the session and encourage them to participate actively therein and to consider organizing side events during the session.

D. Communication of the Chair with members of the Commission

12. Considering that participation in the forty-seventh session of the Commission would be open-ended, as decided by the General Assembly in resolution 67/250, the Bureau requested the Chair to write a letter to all Member States, irrespective of whether they were members of the Commission, to inform them of the dates of the session, remind them of the theme and suggest the agenda items under which interventions were welcome.

13. The Chair was also asked to request that delegations include technical experts on population issues and to inform them about ways to access preliminary versions of the documentation for the session.

E. General debate on the further implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development on the occasion of its twentieth anniversary

14. The Bureau recalled General Assembly resolution 65/234, on "Follow-up to the International Conference on Population and Development beyond 2014", in which the General Assembly decided to extend the Programme of Action and the key actions for its further implementation beyond 2014, to ensure its follow-up in order to fully meet its goals and objectives and to convene a special session during the sixty-ninth session of the Assembly in order to assess the status of implementation of the Programme of Action and to renew political support for actions required for the full achievement of its goals and objectives.

15. In the same resolution, the General Assembly further decided that the Commission on Population and Development should convene an interactive discussion during its forty-seventh session on the assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action. The Assembly also called upon UNFPA, in consultation with Member States and in cooperation with all relevant organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant international organizations, as well as institutions and experts, to undertake an operational review of the implementation of the Programme of Action on the basis of the highest quality data and analysis of the state of population and development, taking into account the need for a systematic, comprehensive and integrated approach to population and development issues. In addition, the Assembly requested the Secretary-General to submit a report based on that review to the Commission on Population and Development at its forty-seventh session.

F. Relationship between the Commission and the Economic and Social Council

16. The Bureau discussed ways to ensure the contribution of the Commission to the annual ministerial review conducted during the high-level segment of the annual meeting of the Economic and Social Council, which, in July 2014, will focus on the theme "Addressing ongoing and emerging challenges for meeting the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 and for sustaining development gains in the future". The Bureau agreed that it was important to increase the synergies between the work of the Commission and the annual ministerial review and that including the item in the agenda of the Commission was a way to call attention to the importance of population issues in discussing the theme of the annual ministerial review. In addition, in previous sessions of the Commission, Member States that had volunteered to make national presentations at the annual ministerial review were also invited to exchange views with the Commission. The Bureau agreed to continue that practice and requested the Chair to send an invitation to the relevant Member States.

17. The Bureau also agreed that the President of the Economic and Social Council would make an important contribution to the work of the forty-seventh session of the Commission on Population and Development and requested the Chair of the Bureau to invite him to launch the discussion on agenda item 5, as had been done at prior sessions of the Commission. In addition, the Bureau endorsed the suggestion

of the Chair to invite the Secretariat to make a short presentation covering some of the key linkages between population dynamics and the theme for the 2014 annual ministerial review.

G. Resolutions and decisions

18. The Bureau recommended that the Commission consider adopting the following resolutions or decisions: a decision on the draft agenda for its forty-eighth session; and a decision on the theme of the forty-ninth session. The Bureau also discussed whether to recommend that the Commission consider a negotiated outcome on the special theme of the forty-seventh session, namely, "Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development". However, at the time of preparation of the present report, the Bureau had not finalized its recommendation on whether the Commission should consider adopting a resolution on the theme of its forty-seventh session.

H. Availability of documents for the Commission

19. The Bureau stressed the importance of the timely availability of documents for the forty-seventh session of the Commission in order to facilitate the preparation of statements by delegations. The Bureau endorsed posting advanced unedited versions of such documentation on the Internet in English only, ahead of their official release in all United Nations official languages.

III. Recommendations of the Bureau

20. **The Bureau recommended the adoption of the draft organization of work for the forty-seventh session of the Commission.**

21. **The Bureau decided that two keynote speakers and a panel of two or three experts would be invited to address the Commission on the special theme of the forty-seventh session, "Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development".**

22. **The Bureau requested that the Chair inform all relevant agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations system of the dates and theme of the session and encourage them to participate actively and to consider organizing side events during the session.**

23. **The Bureau requested that the Chair write to all Member States, irrespective of whether they were members of the Commission, to inform them of the dates of the session and to remind them of the theme, suggesting the agenda items under which interventions were welcome and underlining the desirability of having technical experts as part of their delegations.**

24. **The Bureau decided to invite the President of the Economic and Social Council to address the Commission under item 5 of the provisional agenda of the forty-seventh session and to invite the permanent representatives of**

Member States making national presentations at the annual ministerial review in 2014 to participate in an interactive dialogue on the relevance of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development for the theme of the annual ministerial review in 2014. In addition, the Bureau decided to ask the Secretariat to prepare a brief presentation on some of the key linkages between population dynamics and the theme of the annual ministerial review.

25. **The Bureau recommended that the Commission consider adopting a decision on the provisional agenda for its forty-eighth session and a decision on the theme for its forty-ninth session.**

26. **The Bureau members decided to continue consultations with their respective regional groups to finalize their recommendation on whether the Commission should consider a resolution on the special theme of the forty-seventh session, namely, "Assessment of the status of implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development".**

27. **The Bureau recommended that advanced unedited versions of official documents be posted on the Internet in English only, ahead of their official release in all United Nations official languages.**